

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY, FEB. 20, 1857.

NOTICE.

ON and after this day, January 12th, 1857, all *advertisements MUST BE PAID FOR IN ADVANCE*, in cash, are they will be inserted.

Our friends in the country as well as in town will please bear this in mind, and remit the amount they are willing to lay out in advertising with the copy they wish inserted.

Democratic Association.

The members of the Democratic Association of the town of Wilmington, are respectfully requested to meet at the Court House, on Friday evening, the 20th inst., to receive and act upon the report of the President in the nomination of Ward Committees, and for the transaction of any other business which may come before them. A full attendance is earnestly solicited.

W. T. J. VANN, President.

Out Plainly at Least.

We like to see people come out in their true colors and show their real sentiments, and therefore we like to see the way in which the Fayetteville *Observer* of 17th inst. lets out its real feelings with regard to the Deep River Work—it hopes the failure of that work.

Immediately under its editorial head, it publishes an extract from what it endorses as a "Sensible Letter," in which the writer says, "I think that every man who has any interest in the coal fields should now come forward and help out your road. The River must go down—it cannot sustain itself—judging by past experience—without large sums of money, and that the Company are unable to raise."

The animus of such arguments for the road, endorsed as they are by the *Observer*, is too apparent to be overlooked. But whether the *Observer* and its correspondent really think that the river must go down, or whether they only adopt this amiable and friendly mode of electioneering for another work, we lean to the opinion that their pleasant anticipations will fail of being realized. It is very pretty and highly consistent, no doubt, for the *Observer* and its conferees to labor for the defeat of the River and to prophecy and anticipate that it must go down, while at the same time they make a hue and cry over the failure of the Legislature to extend aid to it—all this is perfectly consistent with their scheme of hatching up party capital upon false grounds, and from irrelevant circumstances; but this attempt is more certain to go down under inevitable exposure and detection, than that the Deep River Work is to go down under such election. Deep River will not go down, in pursuance of the prophecies and hopes of those who so plainly exhibit their desire to "rise upon its ruins and in spite of its opposition." But for the bitter spirit displayed by friends of the Road towards the other work, one at least would have been secured. Depend upon it the people of Wilmington are not so easily driven from the pursuit of their just and proper objects, and they stand not alone in their desire to "put through" this work—this great State work.

We have not now one word to take back that we have ever said in favor of the road. The people of Wilmington have no endorsement to withdraw, for their endorsement of that work was freely and honestly given; but surely if anything could awaken feelings of bitterness and hostility to that work, it is the bitterness and hostility towards other works, displayed by those who put themselves forward as the friends of the road—who with all their astuteness are unable to conceal their exultation over the supposed going down of the work on the river.

In another article, headed "Not so Sanguinary," the *Observer* becomes funny after its peculiar manner by asking if the *Journal's* party friends in some enlightened quarter have been down upon it, and then refers to Long Creek, etc. We have not a subscriber who does not understand our meaning perfectly, and the only enlightened quarter in which our remarks are studiously understood is the office of the Fayetteville *Observer*. But if the editors of the *Observer* will insist upon having somebody's windpipe severed, suppose they try their own hands first upon their own party friends, Dockery and Christian, the parents of the Cheraw and Coal Fields road.

The *Observer* in this same article alludes to our brief absence—to our spending a week in Washington City. Perhaps it may be an aggravation of the offence, that our sole and exclusive business there had reference to the interests of the town, and no more connection with party politics than we can conceive the question of internal improvements in North Carolina legitimately has, and that is, none at all.

Among the shining lights of the Democracy, our meeting with whom in Washington, furnishes the *Observer* with the occasion of a sneer, there was one, a native and citizen of its own town, whom no one can meet without pleasure, a pleasure only alloyed by the feeling that his physical health and strength are not proportioned to the warmth of his heart and the activity of his mind. We allude to the Hon. James C. Dobbin. With his broad and comprehensive views of State improvements we could fully coincide. In his absence from petty prejudices we could heartily rejoice. Would that the same spirit were more generally diffused. Would that it pervaded to a greater extent the public exponents of opinion and feeling in his beloved Fayetteville.

Cape Fear and Deep River Improvement Bill. The *Wilmington Herald* asserts that the Democratic members of the General Assembly are responsible for the defeat of the above bill, and quotes, in support of its assertion, a speech by Mr. Lewis, of Wake, who called upon his brother Democrats to support the Governor's recommendation. As an ardent friend of the bill, Mr. Lewis made use of every available topic to save it from its impending fate; but he was followed by Mr. Jenkins for, and Mr. Seile against, both of whom declared they would recognize no "outside pressure," and would vote, not as Democrats, but as independent members of the Legislature. Mr. Settle further declared he would offer no faint opposition, but was ready to meet the bill on its merits and take a direct vote upon it. Compare the conduct of this prominent Democrat with that of Messrs. Dargan, of Anson, and Leach, of Davidson, who, heedless of this example, availed themselves of legislative tactics and beat the bill in a race against time. We do not deny but many Democrats, disgusted with the company's management, were decidedly averse to the bill; but this disgust also extended to their Know Nothing opponents. So, if the people are angry about this matter (which we very much doubt,) the "punishment" will be pretty evenly distributed between both parties.

Warren News.

Surely the *Herald* cannot have forgotten the remarks of M. Q. Waddell, Esq., in the Court House week before last, in which he stated that Mr. Dargan, of Anson, gave as a reason for opposing the Cape Fear and Deep River Appropriation, not that he (Mr. Dargan) had any particular objection to it, but that he wanted to defeat it so as to help to break down the Democratic party. Mr. Waddell is not a Democrat, but an opponent of the Democratic party—a fair opponent, we have no doubt—and his statement of the avowed motives of an opponent of the appropriation, and a bitter enemy of the Democratic party, throws light upon the tactics of the opposition, and shows the spirit which is abroad, and which manifests itself in the attempt to make party capital out of the acts of the last Legislature. No enduring capital can be accumulated by such tactics. Their efforts must recoil upon the heads of those resorting to them.

BLAZER.— Somebody has sent us a copy of the *Nueces Valley*, a paper published at Corpus Christi, Texas, in which, under the caption of "Nor' Caro-texas Judge," there is a precious column and over of fustian devoted to the agitated question of the admission of the testimony of Universalists. The writer says that the appeal was taken to the Superior Court from the Court below, which is not so—the only appeal upon anything in any way connected with the point in question was from the Superior Court to the Supreme Court, and this latter Court decided most emphatically in favor of the admissibility of such testimony, the opinion of the Court as delivered by Judge Pearson being marked by high ability and remarkably liberal feeling.

Yet this Texas paper raises a howl over North Carolina and her judges, in ignorance of the facts, not one of which it knows or states correctly, flares up at somebody for doing something which said somebody did not do, and, upon the whole, succeeds in making a fool of itself. Yet it writes quite fairly in defense of religious liberty,—which is not as said by our judiciary,—in fact, produces what some folks may lead to call fine writing, even though those who understand the matter are aware that it is baseless and false.

Unfortunately, we have been forced to the conclusion that the greater portion of the stirring articles of the newspaper press might be found to have as insecure a basis. We meet tirades in favor of civil and religious liberties which are in no danger, and against men by whom such liberties have never been threatened. Have we not seen such things over and over again within the last few years? Our *Neues Frey* friend may have thought that the law in North Carolina stood as he represents it, and, taking no trouble to inform himself, he pitches in. Is not this the history of nearly every excitement? Any story against any denomination or class of people may be started—who is there to verify or unverify it at the start? It becomes the text of exciting appeals, the pabulum of excitement-mongers among the conductors of the press; and factions, which claim the name of parties, frequently arise, raging oppressively in defense of liberties which their conduct proves that they do not understand, and which they mean to save from dangers with which they have never been threatened.

After having discredited the testimony of the Wilmington papers, the *Journal* included, with respect to the effect of the Cheraw and Coal Fields Road, it is with a very poor grace that the Fayetteville *Argus* quotes this testimony which it itself has discredited, and upon that testimony attempts to build up a fabric of opposition to the Democratic party. It says, "in one breath," Gentlemen, you are all wrong—the Cheraw Charter is just a little the best thing for the world in general, and you in particular, that could, would or should have been done, and your denunciations of it amount to just nothing at all;" while, in the next breath, it quotes the very denunciations it has so characterized, and endeavors to use them for party purposes, saying, in effect, that it does not believe a word of them—that they are good for nothing, but, still knowing and asserting this, it is willing to make party capital against the Democratic party out of them. Such is the game of those who can never rise above petty party intrigues, whose animosity to the democratic party blinds them to the facts of the case, the interests of the State, and their own admissions and assertions. We showed conclusively, in our article on Saturday last, that this was not a party question, and that we did not regard it, but that, even viewing it in the light of a party question, the Democrat stood twice as high as their opponents upon every measure affecting our interests—certainly upon this Cheraw Road, and we feel certain of equally good showing upon the others. We desire no unnecessary controversy upon these matters, believing that such controversy may tend to embitter sections, and thus do injury to all, it can result in good to none, but, if pressed upon us, we know exactly how and where we stand, and are willing to meet any attacks upon our own position, or any attempts to make political capital against our party.

Kansas and Minnesota.

We do not know precisely the provisions of the Bill now before Congress, authorizing the people of Minnesota to form a Constitution and State government preparatory to their admission to the Union as a State, but we cannot but think that any attempt at her exclusion, simply because the probabilities or even certainties are that she will be a free State, would be very bad policy on the part of the South, and would form a precedent against herself of the most dangerous character. What we presume all parties at the South contend for is, that the more fact of an incipient State forming a Constitution adopting or affirming slavery should form no impediment to her admission. The South cannot stand strongly and consistently upon this ground, if she sets up a test against incipient States that do not affect to the position to be assumed by each.

It would appear that these cat.net speculations mainly hinge upon who will be secretary of State. Why this is so, we cannot pretend to say. Perhaps it is understood that the other positions can be more easily allotted. This again puzzles us, since a good many names are mentioned in connection with cabinet appointments generally, without any definiteness as to the position to be assumed by each.

We hold that a State applying for admission has a right to decide this question for herself, and Congress has no right to go behind her decision. If there be any other or safer doctrine we have yet to hear it, and if there be no other safer doctrine, we are at a loss to know how censure can be bestowed upon those who in pursuance of this doctrine voted for the admission of Minnesota. If we raise the test against Kansas, or any other State which may apply for admission, having slavery.

As we said in the outset, we do not know precisely the provisions of the bill or the circumstances connected with it, we merely address ourselves to the question of a refusal to admit her because of her position on this question of slavery.

THE CAPE FEAR BILL.—We are without definite information with respect to this bill, but feel pretty certain that it did not come up on Monday. The only thing we have directly is in a brief note from a friend there, dated on Sunday, which expresses the fear that the floor could not be "got-to-morrow" (Monday) for our bill. The triffl is the order, and debate is to be closed at 4 P. M.

We notice by the brief telegraphic reports that on Monday "the House, under a suspension of the rules, referred to the Committee of the Whole about 50 of the Senate river and harbor bills." Our bill originated in the Senate, and may be included in these 50. What the effect of this reference may be we cannot precisely say, but it strikes us that, at this late period of the session, the effect would be unfavorable. We expect a despatch this forenoon; and, of course, if it arrives before we go to press its contents will be laid before our readers. We take it for granted that no decisive action either way has been had, or we should have known it by telegraph.

93—We are indebted to the publisher, E. J. Hale & Son, Fayetteville, for a pamphlet copy of "The Life and Character of Flora McDonald," by James Banks, Esq. It is neatly printed, on good white paper, and contains 24 octavo pages.

93—One thousand one hundred tickets had been sold to the National Inauguration Ball, in Washington City up to last Friday night.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 14.—At Havre de Grace, to-day, the morning train of cars for the North, passed over the track on the 1st.

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93—We re-publish to-day, from the *Herald* of the 16th inst., the official proceedings of the Board of Commissioners at their last meeting; and proceeding being of unusual interest to our citizens, involving, as they do, the arrangement of the subscription to the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad Company, as well as the creation of a new of-

The Facinations of Crime.

We do not know that our caption fully or properly expresses our idea, which is the strange fascination that gathers around the details of and the supposed participants in any act of peculiar atrocity, especially if seasoned with a slight spice of mystery, and perpetrated within, or close upon, the confines of "good society."

Bill Sikes might murder Nancy without many people, save the police, troubling themselves with the matter, and many a seamstress besides Tom Hood's may sing the Song of the Shirt on her way to a premature grave, and the world go its way unheeding; but when a miserable miser like Doctor Bundell of New York is found murdered in a semi-fashionable boarding-house in Bond street, kept by a woman whose character turns out to be none of the best, and whose relations with Bundell were more than equivocal, then the whole newspaper and newspaper reading world is on end as it were, and the "Bond Street Mystery" is discussed alike in bar-room and boudoir from one extreme of the land to the other, while the names of Mrs. Cunningham and her supposed paramours and participants in murder, Ecke and Snodgrass, are familiar as household words, from Maine to Texas.

The writer who would attempt an analysis of this matter, must possess an acquaintance with mental anatomy far exceeding anything to which we can lay claim. It seems to be composed in nearly equal parts of the spirit which leads to the perusal of the Newgate calendar, and that which induces our republicans to take such interest in the novel that details the loves and the scandals, the fortunes and misfortunes of the aristocratic Lady Betty and Lord Adolphus Fitz Frizelle. Something of the curiosity that tempted Cain to shed the first blood. What are these rather improper and not very interesting people to us, or to them, that the papers should be filled with their names, and the electric wires vibrated with details concerning them, to an extent hardly equalled by the news of a Presidential election? Perhaps the affair reveals a phase of New York life, and people have an interest in it. Perhaps, and this seems the true reason, the parties are mysterious sinners, and have dwelt on the confines of "respectability." Had they been really good people, they would have lived unknown and unknown, as thousands and millions do; and they might have perished in railroad collision, their names forgotten the next day. Had they been in a more humble position, even their crimes or supposed crimes would have won for them no corresponding notoriety, for we will venture to say that Teague McBlatheray may any day knock in the crown of his long-suffering wife Bridget's head with an iron pot, and get his own neck stretched therefor, without the world troubling itself, although, in fact, poor Bridget may have possessed more of the true virtues of humanity, and be more sincerely mourned by her little ones than all the Burdells and Cunninghams and Eckels, et al. genus omne, in New York or out of it, ever will be by any human being.

93—After having discredited the testimony of the Wilmington papers, the *Journal* included, with respect to the effect of the Cheraw and Coal Fields Road, it is with a very poor grace that the Fayetteville *Argus* quotes this testimony which it itself has discredited, and upon that testimony attempts to build up a fabric of opposition to the Democratic party. It says, "in one breath," Gentlemen, you are all wrong—the Cheraw Charter is just a little the best thing for the world in general, and you in particular, that could, would or should have been done, and your denunciations of it amount to just nothing at all;" while, in the next breath, it quotes the very denunciations it has so characterized, and endeavors to use them for party purposes, saying, in effect, that it does not believe a word of them—that they are good for nothing, but, still knowing and asserting this, it is willing to make party capital against the Democratic party out of them. Such is the game of those who can never rise above petty party intrigues, whose animosity to the democratic party blinds them to the facts of the case, the interests of the State, and their own admissions and assertions. We showed conclusively, in our article on Saturday last, that this was not a party question, and that we did not regard it, but that, even viewing it in the light of a party question, the Democrat stood twice as high as their opponents upon every measure affecting our interests—certainly upon this Cheraw Road, and we feel certain of equally good showing upon the others. We desire no unnecessary controversy upon these matters, believing that such controversy may tend to embitter sections, and thus do injury to all, it can result in good to none, but, if pressed upon us, we know exactly how and where we stand, and are willing to meet any attacks upon our own position, or any attempts to make political capital against our party.

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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

WILMINGTON, N. C., MONDAY, FEB. 10, 1857.

An absence of even the briefest duration involves an accumulation of matters requiring notice at our hands. Having returned last evening, and seeing for the first time in eight days any North Carolina paper, with the exception of one issue of our own daily, it will be impossible for us to-day to pay our respects to our contemporaries generally as we could wish. We will merely glance at some points, touching first upon such references to the *Journal* as are to be found in the Fayetteville *Observer* of the 9th inst. The *Observer* says that the *Standard* and *Journal* represent the members of both Houses, as having been wedded at will by General Dockery, although the General was in a hopeless minority.—What the *Standard* may have said, we do not now recollect, nor is it important that we should—we leave that paper to take care of itself, a duty to the discharge of which it is fully competent. The allusion made by the *Journal* was in reply to the attempt of the *Observer* to deduce an attack upon the Democratic party from some rather forcible remarks of the *Journal* on the passage of the Cheraw Railroad bill. We said then, as we say now, that the fact of the sponsor and most efficient friend of the bill being General Dockery, the leader of the opposition, the standard-bearer whose name graced the head of the editorial column of the *Observer*, is sufficient to demonstrate the absurdity of the attempt to make a party question of this affair, or to coin party capital out of it, against the Democratic party.

Let us look again at this matter. When we spoke of cutting the throat of the State, and drew from that the illustration we did, we supposed and still suppose that every man of common sense understood that we simply meant it as an illustration, and not as a suggestion. We trust that nobody takes us for fools enough to suggest such a slaughtering course to be pursued towards men, many of whom are personal friends, neither could we, nor can we for an instant place so low an estimate upon the intelligence of the editors of the *Observer* as to believe that they did.—But even assuming for a moment that we had suggested such a course, the result would have been to leave 22 Democratic survivors and only 7 opposition among those voting in the House, so that adopting this test the Democrats would stand three times better than their opponents. Seventy Democrats voted upon the bill for the Cheraw and Coal Field R. R., forty-eight for it, twenty-two against it, that is to say that rather more than two to one of the Democrats voted for the bill. Thirty-five opposition voted on the bill, precisely one-half as many as the Democrats. The opposition vote stood twenty-eight for the bill, to seven against it, being precisely four to one opposition votes in favour of the bill, so that even upon this point the position of the Democrats was near about twice as good as that of their opponents.

But again, since the *Observer* will have it, let us turn to General Dockery. Did not General Dockery represent himself as the fast friend of Wilmington, and of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad? Certainly he did. He had presided over the last meeting of stockholders of the company organized for the construction of that work, and when he advocated this Cheraw scheme as a project beneficial to the interests of Wilmington and its railroads, what wonder if gentlemen of both parties from other sections believed in and acted upon his representations. With General Dockery's motives, or other people's motives, we do not propose now to interfere, but these are the facts.

We have shown, we think, conclusively, that the attempt to make party capital out of this matter of internal improvements must prove futile, as it is certainly wrong and impolitic. We have never treated it as such. We have taken our own course plainly and decidedly upon our own convictions of what appeared to us to be the best interests of the State. For that course we are responsible as citizens of the State and residents of Wilmington, not as Democratic partisans. If we allude to the matter at all, in a political point of view, it is simply for the purpose of meeting attacks upon the Democratic party, which we feel to be as unjust and disingenuous, as we know them, to be detrimental to the cause of internal improvements, and injurious to the best interests of the State. It may be, that feeling warmly, we may, at times, have expressed ourselves strongly. Those opposed to us may make what capital they can against the *Journal* on this point. They can make none against the Democratic party.

[*Daily Journal*, 14th inst.]

THE CLOSE OF THE ELECTION.—On Wednesday the 11th inst., we witnessed the last scene of the Presidential election—the final counting of the votes in the hall of the House of Representatives, in presence of the members of both houses. The Senate, in a body, led by its President, came in and took the seats assigned. The President of the Senate was president of the convention of both houses, and took his place in the Speaker's chair, the Speaker of the House on his left. Tellers on the part of both houses took their place at the clerk's desk. The President of the Senate stated what was to be done, and commenced by opening the vote of Maine and handing it to the tellers, by whom it was read and taken down. So on with all the other States. The vote of Wisconsin purported to have been cast on the 4th of December, instead of on the 3d, the day required by law. In reading the vote of Wisconsin, and in stating the result, the tellers alluded to this fact. The President of the Senate in announcing the result, gave the vote in full, including that of Wisconsin. Many gentlemen arose and recorded their protest against this, as likely to form an unsafe precedent, and a motion was made to reject it. The President of the Senate, in the Chair, decided against putting such motion. The Senate was then as the Senate, and not as blended into the House. The bodies were separate and were only together for a specific purpose, not for joint voting. General Cass arose and stated his views. The Houses could only entertain motions in their own chambers, and organized according to the Constitution. The Senate retired to its chamber for consultation, and the House, with the Speaker in his seat, took up the matter, but did nothing. The certificate will be made up as in 1821, when there was a doubt about Missouri. The return of the tellers will show the vote with and without counting Wisconsin, and the election of Buchanan and Breckinridge in either event.

Mr. Horne, agent for obtaining subscriptions to Dr. Hawk's History of North Carolina, is now in town, and will wait upon as many of our citizens as he can. He is stopping at Holmes' Hotel, where he will be pleased to see such persons as he may not be able to call upon, and who may desire to subscribe.

The Chesapeake is said to be entirely clear of ice, and the Norfolk boats have resumed their daily trips to Baltimore in connection with the Seaboard and Roanoke Rail Road.

The Directors of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad Company met at this place yesterday, we believe, for the purpose of making some arrangements relative to the progress of the road. We shall probably be able, in a day or two, to give some information relative to the matter. They met again this morning. All the Directors are present except one.—*Daily Journal*, 13th inst.

Letter from the Editor.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10, 1857.

I expected to have left for home this morning, and therefore, did not think it worth while to write. I find that, in all probability, I may not leave for a day or two, and, therefore, think it best now to drop a line.

On Monday (yesterday) an effort was made to get up our Cape Fear bill, under suspension of the rules. A change of four votes would have rendered the effort successful. Had it been got up it would have gone right through. Our friends do not give it up. They are still determined to keep trying. Once up, there will be no difficulty. I think it will go through yet, and at this session. The Committee on Commerce very courteously allowed the bill to get out of their hands and to be reported separately, and following up their lead Mr. Winslow obtained the floor for his motion to suspend the rules, which was courteously entertained by the House, and it appeared as though a two-thirds vote could be obtained for the suspension, but unfortunately it just failed. Better luck next time. Our representative and his fair means to both popular and have warm friends, and no fair means to obtain success will be left untied by Mr. Winslow and other gentlemen of the delegation. I might mention names and particulars, but this would be useless, and might be improper at the present time. I mentioned in my last that Mr. Dickinson was here. He has been here since the early part of last week. I need hardly add that his efforts are energetic and well directed.

On examination, I discover that a rather mistaken impression has been entertained among us with reference to the Marine Hospital appropriation; at least, I confess to have been under this impression. That is, that unless made available within two years from the commencement of the fiscal year for which it was appropriated, it would lapse. I find that it is two years from the close of that year. This gives another year from the first of next July. The sooner action is taken the better, however. I will be home in two days, and will then state what I understand to be the wish of the Department.

To-morrow both houses will go into Convention for the purpose of opening and counting the votes for President and Vice President. It will be quite a ceremony, and the galleries and lobbies will, of course, be crowded. It will be only a ceremony.

Cabinet speculations are still ripe. Rumor points to the Secretary of State as the critical, or, at least, the most disputed point. The same rumor correctly connects the name of Hon. Robert J. Walker, of Mississippi, with that high office. It is certain that this has been on the cards. Whether it is now or not, I cannot pretend to say. The same rumor that represented Walker stock as rather down a few days since, now represents it as above par. There would appear to be some approximation to truth in what rumor says in this matter. While here, Mr. Buchanan solicited and obtained the views of gentlemen from all States and sections, gave them a careful consideration, but reserved his own ultimate decision to himself.

There is a department of immense importance to which the attention of the South has been too little drawn. That of the Interior. It is to the South, perhaps the most important department of the Federal Government. It makes treaties with the Indians, it controls the Land Offices, it fixes the Indian reserves west of the Mississippi, etc., etc. From these Land Offices, Indian Agencies, and so forth, proceeds an influence calculated to seriously affect, if not, in fact to decide, the future character of the prospective territory. The men connected with the agencies and offices, are the first white men of any account in the unsettled portions of the public domain. Their post form the nucleus of settlements to which they give tone, and these again give tone to the territory and State soon to be formed. Men prejudiced against the South and Southern institutions, could have no more formidable position from which to labor for their exclusion from all the new territories, and the South has never seemed to think of this, it seeming to be taken for granted that the Secretary of the Interior should always come from the North or Northwest. This is a great mistake, and, I fear, a fatal oversight.

The weather here for the last two days has been cold but pleasant, and people generally seem to be in good spirits. I hear of applicants for clerkships having come on from Ohio and elsewhere. They are in the market.

The treaty with Great Britain, with reference to Central American affairs, seems to be in doubt. It contains certain objectionable features, one of which is a sort of British Wilmot Proviso over the Belize Islands, a nominal sovereignty in which is surrendered by Great Britain to Honduras, with the stipulation that slavery shall be forever excluded. There are to be other unacceptable features, but this one seems to be definitely known.

There are but faint hopes, if any, of a reduction of the revenue at this Session, which is deeply to be regretted, as the accumulation of money in the vaults of the Treasury threatens the country with a commercial revolution. It is a great pity that the thing could not be perfected and promptly passed.

I happened to-day to notice Gen. Cass crossing the rotunda of the Capitol, looking younger than I ever saw him look, and I think better. He is certainly a remarkable man.

The new wings of the Capitol are tremendous works. Nothing but the treasury of a great nation is equal to such demands. The new halls will be parallellograms, no circles or parts of circles as the old ones are. They will be larger and more splendid. The iron roofs are on and the interiors of the roofs are being painted and gilded. They will be very rich. The Committee rooms are to be all painted in fresco, as several of them already are. Captain Meigs, the Superintendent of this immense work, receives the magnificent salary of seventeen hundred dollars a year. But he is independent and has the honorary ambition to connect his name with something enduring.

Having exhausted my paper, I must conclude.

DESTRUCTIVE FRESHETS.—The breaking up of the ice and a general melting of the frozen waters at the North has caused a very extensive destruction of property in the cities. At Albany the loss is estimated at \$2,000,000. At other places property to large amounts have also been swept off.

George Davis, Esq., of this town, delivered a lecture in Petersburg on Wednesday evening last—subject, “the administration of Gov. Martin, the last of the Royal Governors of North Carolina.”

Poisoning Case in Boston.

Boston, Feb. 11.—The sudden death of Mr. Gardner, postmaster at Hingham, Mass., led to an investigation of the case; and the circumstances were such as to warrant the arrest of his wife on suspicion of poisoning him.

The Burdell Murder Trial.

New York, Feb. 11.—Very little additional testimony was given yesterday in the Burdell case. An attempt was made to show that Ekel and Mrs. Cunningham were the parties who entered a store to purchase a dagger on Friday before the murder, but the witness failed to identify them. Mrs. Cunningham has been committed to the tomb.

A genius out in Iowa has just invented a wooden horse that will jump thirty miles-an-hour. The native power is a bag of fleas. Who says this is not an age of progress?

COAL FIELDS RAILROAD.—We learn from the *Advertiser* of the 12th inst., that a meeting of the Stockholders of the Western Railroad Company was held in Fayetteville on the evening of the 11th inst. The meeting was well attended. Archibald McLean, Esq., presided, with J. M. Rose, Secretary. The *Advertiser* says :

O. B. Mallett, Esq., President of the Company, entered into a detailed statement of its affairs, from which we learn that the grading of ten miles of the track is almost completed, (will be done in a week or two.) That \$67,719.55 has been paid in cash, and \$20,000 in town bonds. That the cost of the work done, grading, engineering, &c., and the purchase of real estate for a lot, has been about \$25,500. That there is on hand, applicable to the work, \$24,000 in town bonds, and \$20,000 in good individual subscriptions, as yet unpaid. That the grading, bridges, road crossings, possible rock excavations, ties, and all other expenses to fit the road for the iron, will cost, according to the detailed estimates, (prepared on a liberal scale,) \$279,160; to which add \$5,195 for engineering and other expenses, and we have a sum of \$287,362. Leaving \$150,000 to be raised, exclusive of the iron and rolling stock. It is so almost universal for railroad companies to borrow, upon a mortgage of their whole property, the means to purchase these last, that no doubt is entertained of the ability to supply that want in that way. The present object, therefore, is to obtain an additional subscription of \$150,000, which may be made payable in cash, in materials, or in work.

Several gentlemen addressed the meeting, and the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted :

Whereas, this Community has on all occasions manifested a liberal spirit towards other states of the Union, and the *Advertiser* says : In returning to the State, and the railroad, the expert sums paid from the State to the Rail Road—aided not only to this place, but to the development of the great mineral wealth which is our object to bring forth, and which will render the State and the nation rich and powerful; and whereas, the *Advertiser* says : The State has been instrumental in the acquisition of the *Advertiser*—so far as to furnish the *Advertiser* with the means to publish its paper, and to that end, the *Advertiser* has been aided, as well as by the failure of the Department of State to receive valuable information from abroad for that report required, has attributed to the *Advertiser* the result that the *Advertiser* has had in attributable for a period of nearly eleven years.

The *Advertiser* itself was restricted in its requirements;

there was no penalty for the neglect of consuls to furnish the requisite information; and there was no provision for the preparation of such information as might be furnished for transmission to Congress.

To obviate these obstacles, a bill was reported to each House of Congress by its respective Committee on Commerce, at the last session, and became a law; and the *Advertiser* says : and the *Statistical Office* of the Department of State, which had been organized two years before for the preparation of a general report on the commercial relations of the United States with foreign nations, in answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives, was, by this law placed on a permanent basis.

The general report referred to was communicated to the House last March, and was ordered to be printed in quarto form, under the direction of this Department.

It is a voluminous work, and the labor of conducting it through the press has prevented the *Statistical Office* from bestowing that degree of precision which is demanded by the *Advertiser*.

It is a work which will be of great value to the *Advertiser*.

With this great work accomplished, we can deftly obviate the *Advertiser*'s objection.

We have the authority of the most eminent Geologists in the country, and agreeably to the bill, a body of experts in all kinds of engineering, and the like, will be appointed to conduct the *Advertiser* through the *Advertiser* in the preparation of the annual report.

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